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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO. 25X1A

COUNTRY Bulgaria

DATE DISTR. 19 Sept. 1951

SUBJECT 1. Military Activity of Second Army Units in
Southern Bulgaria
2. Arrest of Titko Chernokolev, Former Minister
of Agriculture.

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(LISTED BELOW)SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
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1. On 1 August 1951 all combat units of the Second Army sent cadre units into the area bounded by Greek-Bulgarian border and the Maritza River, east of Plovdiv, for special training in new Soviet weapons. The firing of Katyushes was heard by informant.
2. This area was made a forbidden zone. As of 1 July no villager was allowed to leave his town; at the end of August, one villager was sentenced to three years imprisonment for travelling three kilometers from his village. The zone was patrolled by the State Security, Militia, auxiliary militia and trusted CP members. Ambushes were established along the Arda River and in the area between the Arda and the frontier at intervals 500 meters apart. These ambushes were in visual contact. Because the forests and grasses were dry in the forbidden zone, there were severe penalties for making fires at night or smoking in the woods or fields.
3. The cadre units on maneuvers were briefed on security. Villagers were unable to determine the cadres' major unit. The destination of the units could not be determined because they moved on marches, counter-marches and with vehicles to confuse the inhabitants of the area.
4. Troops in the forbidden zone were not housed in towns, but in mountain bivouacs; they were forbidden to visit towns or villages. Summer uniforms and mountain hobnailed high top shoes were worn.
5. The north side of the Arda River is being fortified with trenches, pill-boxes, tank obstacles and gun emplacements, using trudovek and troop labor. On 11 September a trudovek unit was scheduled to arrive at Popsko to begin large scale fortifications north of the village. A preliminary survey was made on 30 August by officers and engineers. The village of Osman Olar (sic) near Popsko, was converted into a military training area and large scale trench networks and fortifications were erected. In the past, Osman Olar was the scene of annual district fairs; this year the fair was cancelled.
6. Two radio direction finder trucks based at Osman Olar are conducting extensive surveys of the Popsko area. The trucks are now in Manchilovo (sic)

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near Popsko. Bulgarian State Security with army signal intelligence direction finder trucks located and captured a clandestine anti-Communist radio station in the village of Konnitsi (sic).

7. The 12 Infantry Regiment located at Krumovgrad has now withdrawn and its troops are dispersed in bivouacs throughout the mountains. A small housekeeping detail only remains at Krumovgrad.
8. Large scale fortifications and tank traps are under construction near main highways in the Ivailovgrad, Krumovgrad, Svilengrad, Haskovo, Kurdahali and Harmanli districts.
9. The DSNM (Dimitrov Union of People's Youth) has been requested by the Communist Party to form Cheta (bands) of indoctrinated youth, about 18 years of age for the pursuit of illegal groups and western agents in the mountains.
10. Titko Chernokolev, Minister of Agriculture, has allegedly been arrested and publicly condemned at Communist rallies as a nationalist.
 1. [REDACTED] Comment: Reports from other sources, including a broadcast from Radio Sofia on 23 June 1951, have noted the recent dismissal of Chernokolev as Minister of Agriculture.

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